PLCs at Rattlesnake Elementary School

Several different PLCs have been developed at Rattlesnake some of them to cover the same questions of a PLC, others to address specific portions of the four questions. Before creating PLCs the concept had to be introduced to the entire staff which was done last year. This work resulted in creating a schedule that could be used for each of the six grades resulting in some common prep times during the week. Also, planning to use flexible PIR time during the summer to plan out the coming year's curriculum so each grade level would be on an approximate time frame for implementation. Two more PLCs were created, one to cover behavioral issues this is called the Rattlesnake Behavior Initiative (RBI), the other to help with problem solving with academic concerns, this one is called the Student Intervention Team (SIT). Over the summer our old RtI team morphed into our Building Leadership Team (BLT).

Grade level PLCs- these groups actually meet four times a month. They have already developed a time frame to be used in implementing reading, math, science, and social studies. Two of the meetings a month are used to develop common assessments. This year the concentration will be for reading and writing and time to do this comes from the early outs. The other two meetings are used to address the different questions they have and the agenda items were created by each grade levels so vary considerably. These meetings will continue for the remainder of the year. To get to this point the meetings in September covered "reaching consensus" October covered using data to make decisions in regards to PLC questions 3 & 4 and brain storming Agenda ideas. The time for these meetings came from the common prep times allowed because of the schedule that is used. November- remainder of the year will continue to look at these agenda items as well as assessment data for advanced, benchmark, and strategic students.

RBI team- this team has been in existence for several years. This year as a part of the PLC process is helping with developing ways to keep in students in class. This is done in a three tier approach, tier 1 currently are looks at areas in our school we need to bolster school wide expectation and would fall into PLC questions 1 & 2, tier 2 helps those students who need better skills working with their peers and within certain areas of the school, and tier 3 will start to help those students who struggle in all areas, this covers questions 3 & 4. September and October were used to gleam out who was going to do what and also what students would be directly affected. The rest of the year will be used to work on specifics.

BLT- met in the summer to begin rolling out the Montana Common Core Standards to the entire staff as it relates to the English language arts. This will be done in 6 shifts and the timeline for the year will be the one followed by the district. September- November dealt with introduction, to exposure to Shift one and four. The remainder of the year will be shifts 2, 3, 5, and 6. This same process will be used next year with math. This work would fall under the guidelines of all four questions.

SIT- this group has also been around for several years, but last Spring a transformation occurred that fits directly to PLC questions 3 &4. The idea of the team is to be a resource for teachers who have struggling students in their class whether it be because of lack of skills and knowledge or because they already know it and need to be challenged in different ways. This team meets twice a week sometimes with a classroom teacher to brain storm interventions or accommodations to try and sometimes to look at systemic changes that need to occur.